

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CONTACT:**  
**Karen Terrill**  
**Information Officer**  
**(916) 653-5123**

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** February 11, 2002

## **Wildfires in Southern California CDF Increases Fire Fighting Staffing**

**Sacramento** - Hot, dry, windy conditions over the weekend in Southern California fanned several significant wildfires. The worst of them, the Gavilan Fire in San Diego County has burned dozens of houses and forced hundreds of people to evacuate. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has taken an S2-T airtanker out of winter maintenance in Sacramento and sent it to the fire to join 10 helicopters and more than 700 firefighters on the ground. Many of those fire fighters have been reassigned from other duties to respond to this emergency. CDF has also deployed a major fire incident team to coordinate fire fighting activities.

It may be February, but it is still possible to have wildfires in California. With that in mind, officials of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection remind all Californians to be Fire Safe! Families should always have an evacuation plan. Talk to each other about where you will meet if you get separated during a wildfire.

Living in California means living with fire. Now is the time to take a look around your home and property and make it fire safe, so that if fire officials ask you to leave, you can evacuate with confidence that you've done what you can to make your home defensible. The single most important step is clearing away dry grass, brush and weeds at least 30 feet around all structures on the property. Homeowners can check with their local nurseries to find the most fire resistant plants for their area. Additionally, trim tree branches at least 10 ft from the roof, remove all flammable materials from the roof (such as pine needles and leaves) and never stack wood next to the house. These are just some of the fire safety tips residents can obtain by visiting the CDF website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) or the Fire Safe Council Web site at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

Be Fire Safe California!

###



© 2001 State of California